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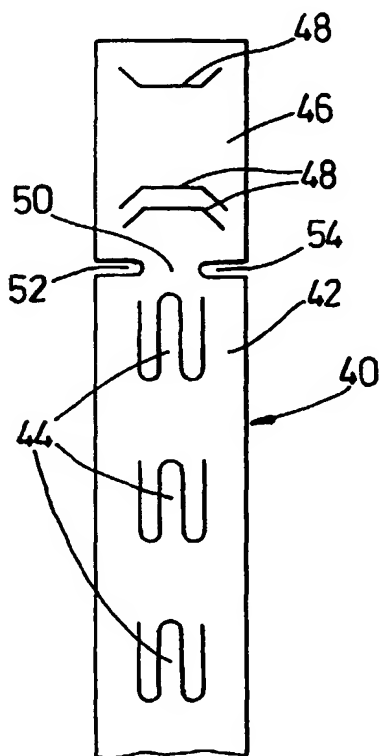
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- Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **STRIP MERCHANDISERS**



(57) Abstract: A strip merchandiser (40) for use with an automated loading mechanism has an elongate body portion (42) having a plurality of longitudinally spaced product mounting hooks (44) capable of being raised and lowered as the strip passes through the mechanism and a header portion (46) on the body portion (42), said header portion (46) having different characteristics to those of the body portion so that it cannot readily pass through the mechanism wherein the strip merchandiser (40) at or adjacent the intersection between the header portion (46) and the body portion (42) is provided with means (50) to allow the header portion to pass above the mechanism. Said means (50) here is a neck portion created by lateral cuts (52, 54).



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 03/03302

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A47F5/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A47F B65B B65D G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 145 675 A (KASS HENRIK ET AL) 14 November 2000 (2000-11-14) abstract; figures 1,2 column 3, line 30 - column 3, line 53 -----	1-6
A	US 5 553 721 A (GEBKA JOHN) 10 September 1996 (1996-09-10) abstract; figures 1-3 column 2, line 49 - column 2, line 62 -----	1-6
A	US 5 743 403 A (CRYSDALE DONALD T) 28 April 1998 (1998-04-28) abstract; figures 1,2 column 2, line 53 - column 2, line 67 -----	1-6
A	US 6 195 877 B1 (POULOKEFALOS DIMITRIS) 6 March 2001 (2001-03-06) abstract; figures 1-6 -----	1



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 October 2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational application No.
PCT/GB 03/03302

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-6

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210 .

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-6

A strip Merchandiser

2. claims: 7-12

A machine for loading product onto a strip merchandiser

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PO GB 03/03302

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6145675	A	14-11-2000	NONE	
US 5553721	A	10-09-1996	AU 3627995 A CA 2205598 A1 GB 2308975 A ,B WO 9618328 A1	03-07-1996 20-06-1996 16-07-1997 20-06-1996
US 5743403	A	28-04-1998	NONE	
US 6195877	B1	06-03-2001	NONE	